

Canon: Criteria & Closing

Criteria for Canonicity: How were the books of the New Testament recognized as authentic?)

1. Was it written by a recognized prophet or apostle?
2. Was it written by someone associated with a recognized prophet or apostle? (Example: Luke, who traveled with Paul and was taught by Paul; or Mark who was an associate of Peter).
3. Was it faithful to previously accepted canonical writings?
4. Was it confirmed by Christ, a Prophet, or an Apostle?
5. Was it recognized and used in the church? (As the Holy Spirit confirmed the Scriptures in the hearts of the early church Christians.)

The Closing of the Canon: How do we know that revelation has ended?

1. There can be no revelation that is proposed as revelation from God that is contrary to the gospel (Galatians 1). This eliminates about 98% of other "revealed" books.
2. Jesus is the final revelation of God (Hebrews 1:1-2)
 - What about the NT books written *after Jesus*? (see point 3 below)
3. Jesus commissioned Apostles to convey his revelation to others.
 - The revelation of the Apostles is not in *addition to Christ* but *continuing from him* (John 16:12). The full and final revelation of Jesus is both his teaching and the teaching of the Spirit through the Apostles.
 - The NT is the Christ-guided interpretation of the meaning of the life, death, resurrection, glorification, ascension of Christ.
4. Warning not to add to or take away from biblical revelation (Revelation 22:18-19)
 - Is this warning broader than just what is in revelation?
 - Yes, the book of Revelation is the last book of the NT (written in the 90s A.D.), the final "revelation" that Christ gave (to/through John). The canon is closed.